

# SAFETY ALERT

During the course of a number of recent Class A aviation accident investigations throughout the Army, U.S. Army Safety Center (USASC) personnel have noted an increased number of mishaps caused by a lack of proper aircraft power-management. Army aviators have become conditioned to the benefits of seemingly unlimited power from modern multi-engine aircraft often operated at low pressure/ density altitudes and temperatures.

An organization may find itself deployed to an area very different environmentally from home base, operating in both high pressure/density altitudes and temperatures. These conditions, along with the high gross weights associated with many mission profiles, often increase demand for power beyond engine capability. The process of confirming power requirements with power available requires continual awareness and constant performance planning. Aircraft performance is predictable for any given environmental condition but is dependent on the accuracy of performance planning, its calculation, and application through power checks. However, performance planning is not enough. Aviators must also fully understand and appreciate how power-limited aircraft will perform during all phases of the assigned mission.

Training is the key to success in preventing mishaps involving power- management procedures. Instructor pilots and unit trainers need to emphasize the importance of proper aircraft performance planning as well as the application of that data to the mission. Aviators brought up on the latest generation aircraft must be made aware of the limitations of the aircraft they are operating. In the end, it is incumbent upon leaders to ensure timely, effective training and rigorous enforcement of standards.

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